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Message Text

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72
ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

66604
DRAFATED BY EA/PRCM:LEKENNEDY:CED
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R 121639Z MAY 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUMJDH/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 0887
USLO PEKING

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC INFO BELGRADE BERLIN USBERLIN BONN BUCHAREST BUDAPEST GENEVA LENINGRAD LONDON MUNICH NATO PARIS PRAGUE ROME SOFIA VIENTIANE MBFR VIENNA WARSAW USIA WASHDC FROM MOSCOW 09 MAY 75:

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 6456

USIA FOR IBS, IEE, IPS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR
SUBJECT: MORE ON BREZHNEV AND VE CEREMONIES

REF: MOSCOW 6411

1. IMPRESSIONS OF AMBASSADOR, WHO ATTENDED VE CEREMONIES MAY 8, CONFIRM THOSE IN REFTEL, WHICH CAME FROM TV VIEWING, THAT BREZHNEV WAS QUITE ANIMATED DURING THE CEREMONIES. FOLLOWING HIS SPEECH, HE HAD LIVELY CONVERSATIONS WITH PODGORNY, LEFT HIS SEAT TO TALK WITH GROMYKO AND GRECHKO, AND HAMMED THINGS UP WITH A CONTINGENT OF CHILDREN. AMBAS-SADOR FELT, HOWEVER, THAT BREZHNEV LOOKED SOMEWHAT THINNER AND MORE DRAWN THAN USUAL.
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2. SPEECHES WHICH FOLLOWED BREZHNEV'S CONTAINED FREQUENT ADULATORY REFERENCES TO HIM AND TO HIS WAR ROLE. AUTO WORKER V.S. TERESHCHENKO, FOR EXAMPLE, REMINDED AUDIENCE THAT BREZHNEV HAD SPENT ENTIRE WAR IN THE ARMY. SUBSEQUENT CON-

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CERT PERFORMANCE CONTAINED LONG FILM CLIP OF A BREZHNEV SPEECH (WE THINK FROM 1971 PARTY CONGRESS) WHICH CUT DIRECTLY TO STATUE OF LENIN IN THE SAME POSITION, AS IF TO EMPHASIZE THE EQUIVALENCE. IN A SUBSEQUENT CEREMONY IN THE KREMLIN, PODGORNY PASSED OUT 30TH ANNIVERSARY MEDALS TO TOP LEADERS PRESENT IN MOSCOW AND GAVE A MARSAL'S STAR TO BREZHNEV. THE STAR IS CONNECTED WITH THE RANK OF ARMY GENERAL; BREZHNEV IS NOT YET A MARSHAL.

3. OTHER SPEAKERS, LIKE BREZHNEV, AVOIDED THE SUBJECT OF STALIN AND HIS WARTIME LEADERSHIP. CPSU WAS GIVEN CREDIT FOR ORGANIZING AND INSPIRING THE VICTORY.

4. REFTEL (PARA 2) REPORTED TASS ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF BREZHNEV'S WORDS THAT END OF WAR IN INDOCHINA WOULD "AS WE HOPE" BENEFIT U.S.-SOVIET DETENTE. PERHAPS WORTH NOTING THAT HIS ACTUAL WORDS WERE "KAK MY POLAGAYEM," WHICH IS MORE ACCURATELY TRANSLATED AS "AS WE SUPPOSE" OR "AS WE THINK." STOESSEL UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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